THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) For abatement of pollution, ambient and source specific environmental standards have been notified from time to time under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The industries are required to meet emission standards in respect of Suspended Particulate Matter, Sulphur Dioxide and Oxides of Nitrogen as well as the industry specific standards. Similarly, in respect of water pollution, the effluent standards for industries as well as sewage treatment plants have been fixed indicating the mode of disposal.

(b) and (c) While gap exists between the waste water generated from domestic sewage and the facilities available for treatment of waste water, priority has been accorded for setting up sewage treatment plants for cities and towns located on the banks of the major rivers. The National River Conservation Plan at present covers pollution abatement works in 160 towns along polluted stretches of 34 rivers spread over 20 States with the objective of making the river water quality fit for bathing.

Carnivore Census

2951. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent three day carnivore census of the Ranthambore National Park has indicated a figure even lower than last year's corrected estimate of 26;

(b) whether it is a fact that the actual number of tigers does not exceed more than 15; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save Ranthambore National Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government of India conducts All India Estimation of Tigers once in every four years. Phase-I of the currently ongoing such estimation has been carried out in all tiger States including Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan, using the refined methodology approved by the Tiger Task Force. Since the process has several other phases, which are required to be completed for arriving at the final figure, no indication of numbers is possible at this stage.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India to protect tigers and other wildlife are given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USO 2948 Part (c)]

Coastal Regulation Zone

2952. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in finalizing Coastal Regulation Zone is hampering the development of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the matter on Coastal Regulation Zone is going to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. For the purpose of promoting environmentally sustainable tourism, the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 permits development of hotels and beach resorts in designated areas of Coastal Regulation Zone-III.

(c) Does not arise.

Clearance to deep water ports

2953. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the clearances required to establish deep water port;

(b) whether deep water port at Gangavaram in Andhra Pradesh has applied for clearance; and

(c) if so, what would be the time-frame to clear such environmental obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Establishment and modernization/expansion of major ports requires prior environmental clearance under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994. Development of minor ports and activities relating to modernization and expansion of minor ports, attracts the provisions of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.